Programmes implemented/undertaken by UNDP in Tsunami hit regions

2415. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Home Ministry is the nodal agency for the UNDP programmes in the country;

(b) the details of programmes being implemented/undertaken by UNDP in the Tsunami hit regions of the country; and

(c) the role of Home Ministry in assigning/choosing regions for development/rescue work to UNDP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The nodal agency for the UNDP programmes in the country is the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance.

(b) The United Nations assistance as coordinated by UNDP is expected to be about $ 38.8 million for areas such as psycho-social support, health and nutrition, education, rebuilding livelihoods, water supply, sanitation and hygiene, information technology and communications.

(c) The assistance from UNDP and its distribution to different regions is coordinated by the Department of Economic Affairs.

Foreign nationals with forged passports, arrested at Thiruvananthapuram Airport

2416. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala sought the intervention of Central Government to investigate into the suspicious links of foreign nationals having forged passports, who were arrested at Thiruvananthapuram Airport;

(b) whether Government are conducting any enquiry into the matter ' and whether any terrorist links connecting to the incident have been unveiled;

(c) how many foreigners were detained and whether any foreigner was elusive and if so, whether the whereabouts have been detected; and